

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1630 without my signature.

The illegal possession and use of performance enhancing steroids is clearly prohibited and those existing laws should be strongly enforced to their full extent, particularly given the apparent heightened activity surrounding this dangerous practice. However, this bill focuses on performance-enhancing dietary supplements (PEDS) instead of focusing on ensuring that students participating in high school sports are not engaged in steroids use.

Furthermore, the technical definition of PEDS, as specified in the bill, is unclear, open-ended and difficult to interpret, making implementation problematic. Developing a list of PEDS based on the defined parameters will be a problem, since most dietary supplements are safe, and neither the Department of Health Services (DHS) nor the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) will be able to make any clear distinctions based on the criteria outlined in the bill. Currently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates dietary supplements. While this bill requires the DHS and the CIF to develop a list of PEDS to be used in regulating the participation of students in high school sports, this activity is best left with the FDA, which has a broader and deeper knowledge base to develop a scientifically validated list of harmful PEDS.

However, because of the importance of this issue, I encourage the Legislature to work with my Administration in developing a cost-effective way to ensure school personnel are adequately trained to identify and address the harmful effects of steroids use, so that students can be well informed, and intervention involving parents and coaches can be applied when appropriate.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger